

OKINAWA MARINE

JANUARY 20, 2012

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Marines return to Sendai, Oshima



Hironobu Sugawara, a member of Kesennuma City and head of the delegation for the Homestay Program, explains to Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr. how the March 11, 2011 disaster affected Oshima Island and what Marines and sailors did to support the residents of the island during a two-day visit Jan. 12-13. Nearly 30 members of the III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific team visited the Sendai International Airport and Oshima Island to allow key leadership the opportunity to meet with their Japanese counterparts and to review community recovery progress since the devastating earthquake and tsunami struck the main island of Honshu. Glueck is the commanding general of III MEF. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matheus Hernandez [SEE STORY AND PHOTOS ON PAGES 6-7](#)

Expedited transfer for sexual assault victims

Cpl. Aaron Hostutler

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — The Deputy Secretary of Defense released a memorandum Dec. 16 detailing procedures for possible expedited transfer of service members who file unrestricted reports of sexual assault.

According to the memorandum, service members who file credible, unrestricted reports of sexual assault will be given the option to request a temporary or permanent transfer from their command or base.

"The intent behind the policy is straightforward: to protect and separate victims of sexual assaults from the offender," said Col. Kevin D. King, the III Marine Expeditionary Force sexual assault response coordinator.

After submission, commanding officers have 72 hours to approve or deny the request. If approved, the request would immediately be forwarded to the appropriate office that processes permanent change of station, permanent change of assignment and unit transfers.

"Sexual assault is a traumatizing event for anyone," said Sandra M. Beecher, a civilian victim advocate with Marine Corps Community Services. "However, this trauma is amplified for a military victim whose offender may also be on active duty, perhaps even in their own unit."

see **ASSAULT** pg 5

Marines prepare for Fuji artillery training

Lance Cpl. Michael Iams

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FUJI, Japan — Marines with Golf Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, conducted accountability checks and equipment inspections in preparation for upcoming artillery training here Jan. 15.

The artillery training offers Marines an opportunity to maintain proficiency in their military occupational specialty, according to Staff Sgt. Marshall D. Clark, gun platoon sergeant with the battery, part of 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"The training we do here helps us better our skills and become more proficient in our jobs," said Lance Cpl. Elmer A. Aguilar, an ammunition technician with the battery. "Being able to train in this type of weather and on this terrain will help us improve our ability to perform in any climate and place."

Motor transport Marines also sharpened their skills as they prepared tactical vehicles used to convoy the artillery pieces, equipment and rations to the Marines in the field.

Motor transport operators not only have a see **FUJI** pg 5

Blood donors give priceless gift

Douglas R. Kennedy

January is National Blood Donor Month, and the U.S. Pacific Command Armed Services Blood Bank Center is sending out a simple thanks to all of our donors—the heart and soul of the military blood program.

“The loyalty of our donors is what continually keeps the military blood program successful,” said Lt. Cmdr. Jonathan Hoiles, director of the Armed Services Blood Bank Center. “We are incredibly thankful for their dedication and gifts of life to ensure ill or injured service members, veterans and their families worldwide receive the blood they need. Please accept our deepest gratitude for your services.”

Blood is perishable and therefore must be replenished. This means that you, the donor, are consistently needed to ensure blood is available year-round. In 2011, our blood donors made an enormous difference in the lives of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. Your generous and selfless gifts have allowed the military blood program to save countless lives on Okinawa and throughout the Western Pacific.

Along with our tremendous donors, we also offer our heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers, blood drive coordinators and supporters that make a difference as well.

“We are so grateful for those who take time to help out, even if they can’t donate,” said Hoiles. “Whether you donate, bake cookies, coordinate a blood drive or encourage others to donate, your support is also the reason we are successful. Thank you.”

Please join us in celebrating all of those who give the simple gift of their time and a vital part of themselves by visiting the U.S. Pacific Command Armed Services Blood Bank Center on Camp Lester.

You can also become a donor. Just one hour of your time can save up to three lives!

Thank you, again, to all donors who rolled up their sleeves in 2011, and thank you to all of our truly amazing supporters! We never forget what you have done for the blood program and

for the military family. We look forward to working with you throughout 2012.

To learn more about the Armed Services Blood Program, donor eligibility requirements, blood drive sponsorship, or to find a blood drive near you, contact the Armed Services Blood Bank Center at 643-7737 or 643-7710, e-mail us at nhokibloodonor@med.navy.mil or visit us online at www.facebook.com/okinawablood.

Kennedy is a blood donor recruiter with the Armed Services Blood Bank Center, U.S. Pacific Command.

“In 2011, our blood donors have made an enormous difference in the lives of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines!”

Douglas R. Kennedy

National Blood Donor Month



Save a life, donate blood

**For information on blood drive events, contact
the Armed Services Blood Bank Center.
643-7737 or 643-7710**

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AROUND THE CORPS



An MV-22B Osprey flies near Mount Etna, Italy, during flight operations Jan. 12. The Osprey is from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 263 (Reinforced), 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, II Marine Expeditionary Force. The Marines and sailors of the 22nd MEU are currently deployed with Amphibious Squadron 6 aboard the USS Bataan Amphibious Ready Group. Photo by Col. Eric Steidl



Sgt. Justin Orange, a squad leader with Company B, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, commands his Marines during a simulated airfield seizure at the Farmville Municipal Airport in Farmville, Va., Jan. 14. The training was part of the 24th MEU's realistic urban training exercise from Jan. 5-20, during which the unit conducted off-base missions near the town of Farmville to prepare for upcoming deployments.

Photo by Cpl. Michael Petersheim



Marines with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369 manually lift a main rotor blade and attach it to a UH-1Y Huey helicopter undergoing repairs at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, Jan. 8. “The Marines are always willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done,” said Gunnery Sgt. Aaron Jameson, the squadron’s quality assurance chief. The squadron is part of Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Aaron Jameson

COMMANDING GENERAL Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri

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H&S Battalion MCB PAO

Unit 35002

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CENTRAL BUREAU

Camp Foster

DSN 645-7422

NORTHERN BUREAU

Camp Hansen

DSN 623-4224

SOUTHERN BUREAU

Camp Kinser

DSN 637-1092



Winner, 2010 DoD Thomas Jefferson Award
Best Tabloid Format Newspaper

Political affiliation guidelines explained

Cpl. Isis M. Ramirez
MARFORPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP SMITH, Hawaii — Citizens, Marines and Department of Defense civilians have the freedom to express their beliefs. However, as the 2012 presidential elections draw near, it is a good time to be reminded of the do's and don'ts in regard to participation in the election process, as well as how opinions can be appropriately expressed in a public forum.

The guidelines for service members' involvement with political activities are stated in DOD Directive 1344.10, while the Hatch Act applies to federal civilian employees. Both groups are prohibited from using their official capacities to influence an election in the following manner:

Service members may express their personal opinion about po-

litical candidates and issues, join political clubs, attend their meetings and political fundraisers, and make donations, but only when not in uniform, as a spectator and acting as a private citizen. However, aside from making donations, they may not assist any partisan political activity, candidate or cause. The key to being within regulations while in attendance at a political event is remaining a spectator and not becoming an active participant and not attending in uniform.

"The Hatch Act and DOD Directive 1344.10 exist so that service members, in their official capacity, do not endorse politicians or candidates," said 1st Lt. Eric J. Langland, installation law attorney with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. "The idea is that, as federal employees, we work for the American public

and thus cannot use our official positions to support one candidate over another. There is also the potential for future conflict, as those candidates we may support or oppose could end up in our chain of command."

It is prohibited for any active-duty service member to make a public political speech, participate in any interview or group discussion, or serve in any capacity for any partisan political campaign, convention or group, whether in uniform or not.

According to DOD Directive 1344.10, service members can display bumper stickers on their private vehicles or signs at their homes, but only if the home is not on a military installation.

They can also support a candidate, party or idea on their personal social media websites. A service member cannot post links

to official campaigning websites or forums; however, it is permissible to "like" a campaign's page.

Service members who fail to follow DOD Directive 1344.10 may be punished under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The potential consequence for civilians is dismissal from federal service.

"(They need to) be sure that any activity they do is clearly in a personal capacity," said James J. O'Donnell, the attorney advisor at staff judge advocate, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific.

For more guidance on what political involvement is permitted, contact the SJA at 645-7462. Service members may also refer to the DOD Directive 1344.10. Federal civilian employees may refer to the Hatch Act.

Contributions to the story by Lance Cpl. Ronald K. Peacock.

Officials address indoor air quality

Tech. Sgt. Jason Lake
18TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KADENA AIR BASE — The Kadena Housing Office provided information and addressed military family questions about indoor air quality and radon gas at a meeting at the Schilling Community Center Jan. 13. The meeting was the first of a series of planned open house discussions with military housing families at installations across Okinawa.

During the meeting, Col. Brian Duffy, 18th Civil Engineer Group commander; Col. Richard Baker, 18th Aerospace Medicine Squadron commander; and military health and environmental professionals on-island shared facts about radon, a naturally-emitted gas, and details on the surveys that have been performed in on-base military family homes in Okinawa over the past two decades.

"We've had a very active radon surveying, screening, and response program in Okinawa Military Family Housing for a very long time. While radon gas occurs naturally, we sample indoor radon gas because high levels can impact our health over time. We are committed to continuing our education campaign and ensuring residents are informed about how we protect the air quality within their homes," Duffy said.

The colonel said the Kadena Housing Office has conducted more than 14,000 radon gas samples in 8,325 homes island-wide since 1991. Most recently, in Nov. 2011, contractors hired by the 718th Civil Engineer Squadron tested 667 base homes island-wide for the naturally-emitted

gas. Approximately 100 homes require response actions.

The 718th CES officials delivered memos to affected residents, describing the process to reduce indoor radon levels. The three-step process includes sampling air quality within the home; actions to reduce radon gas, most likely through the installation of a home ventilation system; and a reassessment to ensure the actions are protective. Additionally, officials offered each resident the option to relocate within 30 days after the notification.

"My family and I live in base housing, and I want to assure all our on-base housing families that we are committed to protecting indoor air quality, listening to their comments, and keeping them informed," said Baker.

The 718th CES, which manages more than 8,000 housing units for all U.S. military branches on island, is working hand-in-hand with its sister service counterparts to educate all military base families in Okinawa.

"We want to educate all housing residents so that they understand our actions and can assist us," said Lt. Col. Ann Birchard, 718th CES commander.

The Kadena Housing Office is also working to schedule discussions at other installations with military family housing. Residents are encouraged to attend the meetings if they have any questions about air quality within their homes.

Base residents who have questions regarding radon health risks can contact the 18th AMDS Bioenvironmental Engineering office at DSN 634-4752.



Energy Conservation Tip



Have leaky faucets repaired promptly. One faucet leaking one drop per second can waste 2,400 gallons of water a year. That is 13 years worth of drinking water for one person!

BRIEFS**CAMP KINSER POWER OUTAGE: JAN. 21**

A base-wide power outage is scheduled to affect all of Camp Kinser, except the housing towers, Jan. 21 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The power outage will affect the Camp Kinser Post Office hours of operation that day. Parcel pick up will be available from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and retail services will be closed.

For more information, contact Camp Services at 637-1886.

CAMP SCHWAB POWER OUTAGE: JAN. 27

A power outage is scheduled to affect all of Camp Schwab Jan. 27 from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The outage will also affect the Camp Schwab Post Office hours of operation that day. Parcel pick-up will be available from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and retail services will be closed.

For more information, contact Camp Services at 625-2215.

CAMP FOSTER TAX CENTER OPENING

The Camp Foster Tax Center at building 437 will be open Jan. 30 - June 15 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Walk-ins: Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Appointments: Monday and Tuesday from 3-5 p.m. through April 13.
- After April 13, walk-ins will be available Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Friday from 8-11 a.m.

Services provided include tax advice, preparation and e-filing. Customers must bring their identification and social security cards, dependents' dates of birth, W2 forms, powers of attorney, if applicable, and all other supporting documentation.

For more information, call the tax center at 645-4829.

SOFA DRIVER'S PERMIT REQUIRED TO OPERATE PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES

It is the responsibility of all privately owned vehicle licensed operators to ensure their USFJ Form 4EJ is valid and in their possession at all times when operating a motor vehicle.

For more information or concerns, contact the Marine Corps Base Installation Safety Office at 645-7219/6071.

TURN OFF SPORTING FIELD LIGHTS

The Camp Butler Energy Office is urging all those who use sporting fields, at night, to turn off the high-powered lights when not in use or when enough daylight becomes available.

If passersby notice the lights on when the field is not in use, contact the Energy Office at 645-5114.

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an e-mail to okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil, or fax your request to 645-3803. The deadline for submitting a brief is noon Friday. Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material.

Marines learn about Filipino culture

Sgt. Rebekka S. Heite

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP COURTNEY — Marines with Communications Company prepared for upcoming exercises by learning about culture in the Republic of the Philippines Jan. 12.

When Marines go to another country they learn about that culture, so they know how to conduct themselves without violating local customs and traditions, said Master Sgt. Jacinto G. Bernardo III, communications chief with Comm. Co., Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"It's important because the cultural sensitivities can have an impact on U.S. military and political goals," said Maj. Patrick Nelson, who was a foreign area officer in Manila, Republic of the Philippines, and was the key speaker during the training.

"My goal was for Marines here to understand the regional and strategic importance of our relationship with the Republic of the Philippines," he added.

During the training, the Marines learned that English is one of the two languages used in the Philippines.

"Speak slowly and don't use big words," warned Nelson. "Expect to have to explain what you say multiple times."

The primary language used



Maj. Patrick Nelson, who was a foreign area officer in Manila, Republic of the Philippines, speaks to Communications Company Marines regarding different aspects of Filipino culture in preparation for upcoming exercises at the Camp Courtney theater Jan. 12. The company is part of Headquarters Bn., 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Sgt. Rebekka S. Heite

is Tagalog, which has a strong Spanish influence, he said. In fact, the words for Monday through Saturday are the same in Tagalog and Spanish.

"Sunday is Linggo, not Domingo," he explained.

The Marines were also taught to show respect by putting the word 'po' at the end of the sentence, as it means sir or ma'am.

Another key part of the training was about the food in the Philippines.

"Food is very serious (in the Philippines)," said Nelson. "If you are invited to a dinner do not expect it to be a quick affair."

In addition, "Don't refuse offers of food," he added.

After strenuous training, it is not uncommon for Filipinos to host a 'Boodle Fight,' which is a banquet placed on banana leaves where everyone stands and eats together with their hands to build morale, said Nelson.

The training was very informative and very in-depth, said Cpl. Zachary Aumick, a satellite communications operator and maintainer with Comm. Co.

Training like this sets the foundation for building relationships with our partner nation, said Nelson.

Volunteers strengthen local relationships



Pfc. Chelsea M. Kolenbrander, a chaplain's assistant with 7th Communications Battalion, cuts the grass during a monthly community relations event at Hikarigaoka Nursing Home in Kin Town Jan. 12. Marines with 7th Comm. Bn., III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF, volunteer monthly to help maintain the Hikarigaoka Nursing Home's yard to foster good relations with the local community.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Manning

CFC-Overseas successful

Sgt. Heather Brewer

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — The Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas wrapped up its 2011 campaign here Dec. 2, after two months of raising money for approved charitable organizations around the world.

According to the CFC website, the CFC is the world's most successful annual workplace charity campaign, with more than 200 campaigns worldwide, helping to raise millions of dollars each year. Pledges made by federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign seasons go toward nonprofit organizations that provide health and human service benefits to needy individuals throughout the world.

"The CFC supports over 2,400 charities that depend upon our generosity to better the lives of people and communities in need," said Lt. Col. James E. Howard, the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Japan, project officer for the 2011 CFC-O.

The campaign, which celebrated its 50th anniversary last year, has continued to gain momentum since its beginning in 1961, and is now the largest workplace philanthropic fundraiser in the world.

"The 2011 CFC-O was a dominating success this year," said Capt. Eric P. Crecelius, the adjutant and community area project officer for 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "U.S. Pacific Command CFC-O broke through the \$5 million mark in donations, which is up nearly \$700,000 from the 2010 campaign."

Approved charitable organizations within the CFC-O include disease research, rehabilitating wounded military personnel, and providing relief for natural disasters and poverty on a national and international scale.

"CFC-O is literally a one-stop shop for charitable donations, everything from medical treatment, education programs and community-support activities to a variety of humanitarian and disaster-relief organizations," said Howard.

"No gift is too small," he added.

Some of the donations from this year's campaign will go toward relief efforts from the March 11 earthquake and tsunami that struck mainland Japan.

"Of particular note to those serving in Japan, there are more than 30 charities within the CFC-O who are actively providing assistance to areas devastated by the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami last spring," Howard said. "Recovery efforts initiated by Operation Tomodachi will continue for a long time, and the organizations assisting our neighbors on mainland Japan will benefit from the donations made by (U.S.) Marine (Corps) Forces, Japan."

A 2011 CFC-O recognition ceremony is scheduled for March 2 at the Ocean Breeze on Camp Foster.

ASSAULT from pg 1

If a request is denied by a commanding officer, service members will be given the opportunity to have the request reviewed by the first general or flag officer in their chain of command. Once submitted, the decision to approve or deny a transfer again must be made within 72 hours.

"This law (part of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012) gives military victims the right to expedited consideration of a transfer request," Beecher said. "This, along with other tools we already use, such as military protective

orders, will give victims greater protection from revictimization."

As Marine Corps Headquarters has not yet distributed implementing guidance, there could still be changes or refinements to the policy in the future, according to King.

Further information regarding sexual assault prevention and response can be found at <http://www.mccsokinawa.com/sapr.asp>.

"Sexual assault is a crime," Beecher said. "If you are the victim of a sexual assault, you can call 645-HOPE (4673) and speak to a victim advocate to discuss your options."

FUJI from pg 1

chance to support the artillery unit by transporting the equipment and Marines, they also have an opportunity to work and service their vehicles in the cold weather, according to Cpl. Dustin Mayfield, a motor transport operator.

"Being out here is fun because I haven't done this before, but it is also very stressful trying to be careful of the risks of driving in snow, ice and the mountainous terrain," said Mayfield.

Marines also checked and serviced the M777A2 howitzers before taking them to the field for live-fire testing.

"We set the guns up so we can make sure we have everything we need as well as make sure the sights on them are correct, so that they are on target when we shoot them," said Lance Cpl. Arthur R. Perez, an artillerymen with the battery.

Other Marines attached to the battery made preparations to help the mission go smoothly and to ensure they are prepared for anything.

"Medical has set up (casualty evacuations), emergency routes, (combat lifesaver) training and cold-weather briefs for the Marines," said Seaman David D. Custard, a corpsman with the battery. "It is imperative to keep the mission going, keep the Marines informed about staying hydrated even in the cold weather and have all medical needs ready."

Marines always take pride in training like they fight, and it is no different during this evolution.

The Marines worked and made preparations as if they were getting ready to cross over into enemy territory, said Clark.

"Practice make perfect," said Aguilar. "The more we train in this kind of terrain and weather, the more we will get used to it."

Glueck discusses upcoming CLB-4 deployment



Cpl. Gregory S. Pugh, left, receives a challenge coin from Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr. during a brief at the Camp Foster Theater Jan. 18. Glueck addressed the Marines regarding Combat Logistics Battalion 4's upcoming deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Brig. Gen. Craig C. Crenshaw also spoke to the Marines during the brief. Glueck is the commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force. Crenshaw is the commanding general of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF. Pugh is a heavy-equipment operator with Company B, CLB-4, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd MLG. Photo by Lance Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

III MEF, MCIPAC leadership a

Gunnery Sgt. J. L. Wright Jr.

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

OSHIMA ISLAND, Japan — Japanese leaders met with nearly 30 members of the III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific team at Sendai International Airport and Oshima Island, Japan, Jan. 12-13.

The visit allowed Japan and U.S. leadership the opportunity to review community recovery progress since the devastating earthquake and tsunami struck Honshu, Japan, March 11, 2011.

"I intend to continue to strengthen an already strong relationship with the people and Government of Japan," said Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., commanding general of III MEF. "I am truly impressed with how the restoration efforts have been going. I am so happy to see people smiling again."

The first stop on the trip was to Sendai International Airport where Glueck and Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, commanding general of MCIPAC, met with airport officials to discuss the status of restoration at the airport.

Immediately following the disaster, which claimed tens of thousands of lives and caused billions of dollars in damage, Okinawa-based Marines deployed to mainland Japan to offer assistance to the Government of Japan. The airport was severely damaged, causing a choke-point for relief supplies to northern parts of the island.

Operation Tomodachi was the name given to the recovery efforts.

Spearheading the recovery efforts at the airport was Col. James L. Rubino, who served as the commander for the logistics element during Operation Tomodachi.

"It is humbling to see what this airport looks like now," said Rubino, whose unit was responsible for helping to clean up all debris in and around the airport and clearing the runway, allowing follow-on relief supplies to be delivered to affected areas in the northern part of the island.

While touring the airport, several travelers expressed their thanks by waving or shaking the hands of the members of the group. One woman expressed her gratitude and told how the Marines helped her brother, who was stranded in his vehicle after the tsunami.

After touring the airport, the group boarded buses for Kesennuma City where they ferried to Oshima Island.

Following the tsunami last year, Oshima Island, with a population of more than 3,000, was isolated due to damage hindering ferry operations, according to Dr. Robert D. Eldridge, deputy assistant chief of staff, G-7 community policy, planning and liaison office, MCIPAC.

"U.S. Marines came to our rescue soon after the damage had been done," said Katsuhiro Kawasaki, a resident of Oshima Island. "They helped us clean up and restore the roads."

Kawasaki and his coworkers have



Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri says goodbye to children as he exits Oshima Elementary School during a visit to Oshima Island Jan. 12. "U.S. Marines came to our rescue soon after the damage had been done," said Katsuhiro Kawasaki, a resident of Oshima Island. "They helped us clean up and restore the roads." Photo by Lance Cpl. Matheus J. Hernandez

been building the island's infrastructure for the past eight months. Kawasaki said he is glad to see the relationships built during Operation Tomodachi are still flourishing.

"Coming so far to come see how we are doing proves we are true friends," he said.

Colonel Arase Koki, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, agreed with Kawasaki and said this visit truly highlights the importance of the relationship between the U.S. and Japan.

"To have the number one and number two (Marine) leaders from Okinawa put this much effort into coming here to visit is great," he said. "It shows their commitment toward the rebuilding of our communities and country."

Another aspect of the visit was an evaluation of the success of the Homestay Program. The Homestay Program, which took place in the summer of last year, brought 25 children from Oshima Island to Okinawa to participate in a cultural exchange and to provide emotional relief to those affected by the disaster.

"It's amazing to see the resiliency of this country," said Talleri.

"They say to see the soul of a community look into the eyes of its children. Allowing us, complete strangers, to open our hearts and homes to our young friends during a time of need was truly amazing," he added.

Raymond W. Richards and his wife, Motoko, were one of the families on Okinawa who opened their homes to these children and said it was truly a pleasure to have been a part of something so special.

Richards has maintained contact with the two girls he and his wife befriended last summer and plans to continue that forever.

"When my wife and I made the decision to open our homes to these two young ladies, we knew it was a commitment we were making for the rest of our lives."

Another objective of the visit was

to visit the Oshima District Disaster Response Center. There, the group discussed ways to alert residents should a disaster occur again.

Topics discussed included early warning systems and how to assist children and the elderly.

"Many people lost their lives because they did not know the tsunami was coming," said Hironobu Sugawara, an adviser to the center and Kesennuma City assembly member. "One half of the island saw the 24-meter (78-foot) wave and the other did not."

"We come together today to learn from each other what can be done to be better prepared and to build on an already strong relationship," he added.

"Geographically, Oshima Island is the closest of our islands to America," said Shigeru Sugawara, the mayor of Kesennuma City. "Since Operation Tomodachi, we are even closer!"



Naoki Kondo, an administrator with the East Japan Earthquake and tsunami community recovery progress site, speaks with Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., the commanding general of III MEF.



Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr. speaks with an airport official during a visit to Sendai International Airport Japan, Jan. 12. "I intend to continue to strengthen an already strong relationship with the people and Government of Japan," said Glueck. "I am truly impressed with how the restoration efforts have been going. I am so happy to see people smiling again." Photo by 1st Lt. Jordan R. Wright

applaud restoration progress



with Sendai International Airport, Japan, shows Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr. and Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri areas of the airport that have been restored since the Great March 11, 2011. Glueck and other senior members of III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific visited Sendai and Oshima Island to review the disaster and to meet with local leaders to discuss the roles of the community, volunteer organizations and the U.S. military during a natural disaster. Glueck is JEF. Talleri is the commanding general of MCIPAC and Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. Photo by 1st Lt. Jordan R. Cochran



Sendai International
relationship with the
restoration efforts
Cochran



Maj. Greg Obar views a display of photos in Sendai International Airport, Japan, Jan. 12. The photos highlight the effort U.S. service members and their Japanese counterparts made during Operation Tomodachi. Following the disaster, Obar and his family opened their home to children affected by the tsunami that struck the northern part of Honshu. Obar serves as the commanding officer of Company B, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. Photo by Gunnery Sgt. J. L. Wright Jr.

Reuniting Homestay Families

Tragedy creates strong bond between families, countries

Lance Cpl. Matheus Hernandez and
Gunnery Sgt. J. L. Wright Jr.

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

As the ferry drew closer to the dock of Oshima Island, two of its occupants began to get anxious. Standing on the second level of the ferry, Raymond W. Richards and his wife Motoko, braved the cold in hopes of getting that first glimpse of a member of their family they had only recently spoken to over the phone.

The two arrived on the island after a long day of traveling, which included a 5 o'clock show time, a three-hour flight and a three-hour bus ride. The 20-minute ferry ride was all that stood in their way.

As the ferry docked and passengers began to offload, the couple was welcomed with open arms by Naoko Kikuta, a resident of Oshima Island.

Although they had never met in person, the three shared a special bond created by tragedy.

Immediately following the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami, U.S. service members sprang into action; and, at the request of the government of Japan, began providing disaster-relief support to the people of Japan. Oshima Island was on the long list of places that needed help. Kikuta's family was displaced and struggled to get their lives back in order.

A few months later, Kikuta received word that the Okinawa-



Dr. Robert D. Eldridge talks with children during a dinner party designed to reunite Homestay Program participants. The Homestay Program provided temporary relaxation for children affected by the March 11, 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami and was symbolic of the affection and friendship between the people of Japan and the United States. Eldridge is the deputy assistant chief of staff, G-7 community policy, planning and liaison office, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. Photo by Gunnery Sgt. J.L. Wright Jr.

based Marines wanted to open their homes to 25 children and four chaperones for a few days away from the devastated island.

This initiative was dubbed the Homestay Program, and Richards and Motoko were one of several families on Okinawa who volunteered to host two children.

The goal of the program was to provide temporary relaxation

for children affected by the earthquake and tsunami and was symbolic of the affection and friendship between the people of Japan and the United States, according to Dr. Robert D. Eldridge, deputy assistant chief of staff, G-7 community policy, planning and liaison office, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

"I was grateful my children were provided an opportunity to leave, even if it was just for a short period of time," said Kikuta, mother of a Homestay Program participant. "The (volunteers) took care of the children as their own and that meant a lot."

Kikuta's child left Oshima Island to experience temporary relief and build a mutual trust and partnership between the U.S. and Japan. They did not expect to build a family while doing so.

"When my wife and I made the decision to open our homes to these two young ladies, we knew it was a commitment we were making for the rest of our lives," said Richards.

Richards and his wife maintained contact with the two children, talking to them at least once per week after the visit was over, and said it was truly a pleasure to

have been a part of something so special.

Nearly 10 months after the disaster, III Marine Expeditionary Force and MCIPAC leadership decided to visit the island to evaluate the progress of restoration. Richards and Motoko accompanied the group.

The visit to Oshima Island provided Homestay volunteers an opportunity to reunite with the children they brought into their homes and allowed some to meet their families.

"It brought tears to my eyes when I saw the kids reunite with their Homestay families," said Hironobu Sugawara, a member of Kesennuma City and head of the delegation committee for the Homestay Program. "Words can't express how I feel about the Homestay Program."

It built an everlasting relationship between the families, he added.

"When I saw Raymond and Motoko, and we met for the first time, it was like I already knew them. They weren't strangers to our family," said Kikuta. "We don't see them as the family that volunteered ... We see them as family."



Miki Kikuta looks for a photo of herself in a Big Circle article about the Homestay Program, on Oshima Island Jan. 12. Kikuta is one of 25 children who participated in the program following Operation Tomodachi. She stayed with Raymond W. Richards and his wife Motoko. Photo by Gunnery Sgt. J.L. Wright Jr.



A rescue craft rushes toward members of its team as a CH-47 Chinook helicopter regains altitude and exits the area after members of Singapore Armed Forces Naval Diving Unit leapt out of the aircraft during helocast training off the coast of Singapore Jan. 12. Marines with Company A, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, III Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, conducted the bilateral helocast training alongside their Singaporean counterparts during Exercise Sandfisher.

Sandfisher splashdown

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Mike Granahan
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Singapore, US leap for joint readiness

After a carefully planned leap, U.S. Marines and members of the Singapore Armed Forces Naval Diving Unit made a splash landing off the coast of Singapore Jan. 12.

The Marines, part of Company A, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, conducted the bilateral helocast training with their Singapore counterparts as part of Exercise Sandfisher.

Sandfisher is an annual training exercise in which the Singapore Armed Forces Naval Diving Unit conducts bilateral amphibious reconnaissance and combat diving training with 3rd Recon. Bn. to sustain tactical proficiency. The engagement also supports the U.S. Pacific Command's theater security cooperation program.

Helocasting is a form of tactical insertion where service members are flown by helicopter within one nautical mile of a shoreline. They then cast themselves out the back of the aircraft, which is still flying at about 10 knots, carrying all of their gear. From there, they make their way into enemy territory preferably undetected.

"It is a specialized insertion method to get swimmers ashore when the landing area is not conducive of small craft," said Gunnery Sgt. Hunter B. Sorrells, a platoon sergeant with the



A CH-47 Chinook helicopter slows to 10 knots about 10 feet above the water while members of the Singapore Armed Forces Naval Diving Unit conduct helocast training with U.S. Marines. The Marines conducted the helocast training alongside members of the NDU during Exercise Sandfisher off the coast of Singapore Jan. 12.

company. "We are able to get the reconnaissance team in with very little to no signature."

The Marines of 3rd Reconnaissance Bn. are well-versed in the art of helocasting, but this jump was prepared by the NDU and was carried out "flawlessly," said Sorrells.

The briefing held by the NDU the morning of the jump was

extremely detailed, going over things including weather, the exact scheme of maneuver and a recovery plan, said Sgt. Joshua Margolies, a team leader with 3rd Recon.

"Singapore provides a unique capability, in that they have a very robust training capacity," said Capt. Chris J. Kearney, a platoon commander with Company

A. "We learn from them as much as we teach."

For most of the members of the NDU this was their first experience helocasting.

"I think everything went really well, they did everything exactly the way they planned it out," said Margolies. "It was probably one of the easiest helocasts I've ever done."

Medical examiner pieces together hidden truths

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Courtney G. White

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Every piece of a puzzle has a specific spot where it fits correctly. Each piece contributes to the puzzle to make the picture whole. Sometimes the puzzle is missing a piece or two and requires someone with a keen eye to find the missing pieces and complete the picture. The same could be said for medical examiners. Their job is to find the unknown and determine the cause and manner of death of the deceased.



Navy Cmdr. Edward A. Reedy, the staff pathologist and the director of clinical support services at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, prepares to work on human tissue samples by putting on protective clothing here Jan. 13. Reedy is one of two armed forces medical examiners outside of the United States whose jurisdiction covers the Western Pacific including Hawaii, Republic of Korea, Japan and the Republic of the Philippines Photo by Lance Cpl. Courtney G. White

Cmdr. Edward A. Reedy, staff pathologist and director of clinical support services at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, is one of two armed forces medical examiners outside of the United States, whose jurisdiction encompasses the Western Pacific including Hawaii, Republic of Korea, Japan and the Republic of the Philippines.

The mission of the Armed Forces Medical Examiners System is to provide comprehensive services in forensic pathology, forensic toxicology, DNA technology and identification and mortality surveillance for the Department of Defense.

A case begins when a medical examiner is notified by investigative services, said Reedy.

"If the body is still at the scene, I will travel to the scene,"

Reedy said. "You learn a lot of information from being at the scene versus what you would acquire through a report. Once the scene is cleared, the deceased will be transported to the USNH," said Reedy.

When the body arrives at the hospital, an autopsy will begin, which includes an external exam, internal exam and lab test, according to Reedy.

"Every case gets the full treatment," he said. "There are no partial autopsies. You only get one shot to examine the body because once the body is gone, it's gone."

Cases sometimes go to trial, said Reedy.

"You want to be able to provide the most information available and the most accurate results, so the case is tried properly."

At the conclusion of an autopsy, an eight to 10-page autopsy report is written, said Reedy. A death certificate is drawn, and the remains are released to the family.

"Medical investigations are nothing like they are portrayed on television," said Reedy. "The case is not answered in an hour, and there is a lot more digging for the answers. Even after the patient's remains have been released, it may be a month or so more before all the test results come back."

Medical examiners are charged with a lot of responsibilities, according to Reedy. Sensitivity and compassion are a must;

but, one still has to aggressively pursue the facts, he added.

Reedy brings together the expertise and personality to get the job done.

"Cmdr. Reedy is one of the most dedicated medical examiners that I have ever had the privilege of working with," said Robert A. Glassheim,

director of the regional Air Force mortuary in Okinawa. "His attention to detail and compassion towards the family are phenomenal. Reedy is always willing to teach and further one's knowledge in the expertise of forensic medicine."

"The most difficult part is trying to explain to a family member why their loved one died," said Reedy. "The important thing is being able to provide them with the truth."

In the United States, there are approximately 800 board-certified forensic pathologists, though not all are practicing, according to Reedy.

Reedy said, as a medical examiner he looks into every aspect of his patients' lives.

"A good doctor will know their patient inside and out, and I literally do," concluded Reedy.

"The most difficult part is trying to explain to a family member why their loved one died. The most important thing is being able to provide them with the truth."

Cmdr. Edward A. Reedy

In Theaters Now

JANUARY 20-26

FOSTER

TODAY Closed

SATURDAY Cirque Dreams World Tour, 4 and 8 p.m.

SUNDAY Cirque Dreams World Tour, 3:30 and 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG13), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY J Edgar (R), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY J Edgar (R), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Contraband (R), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Happy Feet Two (PG), 6 p.m.; J Edgar (R), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Happy Feet Two (PG), noon; Joyful Noise (PG13), 3 and 6 p.m.; J Edgar (R), 9 p.m.

SUNDAY Happy Feet Two (PG), 1 p.m.; Joyful Noise (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.

MONDAY Joyful Noise (PG13), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY J Edgar (R), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY War Horse (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY War Horse (PG13), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Contraband (R), 6 and 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Jack and Jill (PG13), 2 p.m.; Immortals (R), 6 p.m.

SUNDAY War Horse (PG13), 2 and 6 p.m.

MONDAY Immortals (R), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY Joyful Noise (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Immortals (R), 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY Contraband (R), 4 and 7 p.m.

SUNDAY Jack and Jill (PG13), 4 p.m.; Immortals (R), 7 p.m.

MONDAY The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (R), 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY J Edgar (R), 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY Happy Feet Two (PG), 3 p.m.; J Edgar (R), 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY Happy Feet Two (PG), 3 p.m.; J Edgar (R), 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY Closed

TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY Contraband (R), 3 and 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY Happy Feet Two (PG), 6:30 p.m.

HANSEN

TODAY J Edgar (R), 7 p.m.

SATURDAY War Horse (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.

SUNDAY The Three Musketeers (PG13), 2 p.m.; J Edgar (R), 5:30 p.m.

MONDAY Contraband (R), 6 and 9 p.m.

TUESDAY Contraband (R), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY J Edgar (R), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Joyful Noise (PG13), 7 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY War Horse (PG13), 7 p.m.

SATURDAY The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (R), 5 p.m.

SUNDAY Immortals (R), 5 p.m.

MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

THEATER DIRECTORY

CAMP FOSTER 645-3465

KADENA AIR BASE 634-1869

(USO NIGHT) 632-8781

MCAS FUTENMA 636-3890

(USO NIGHT) 636-2113

CAMP COURTNEY 622-9616

CAMP HANSEN 623-4564

(USO NIGHT) 623-5011

CAMP KINSER 637-2177

CAMP SCHWAB 625-2333

(USO NIGHT) 625-3834

Movie schedule is subject to change without notice. Call in advance to confirm show times.

For a complete listing, visit www.shopmyexchange.com.



SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

For more information or to sign up, contact the Single Marine Program at 645-3681.

NAGO CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL TRIP - JAN. 29

- Enjoy Okinawa food, cultural dances, a parade and a beautiful view of the cherry blossoms in Nago. Sign up by Jan. 25. The buses leave Camp Foster Field House at noon, MCAS Futenma Semper Fit Gym at 12:10 p.m., Camp Hansen main gym at noon and the Camp Schwab gym at 12:40 p.m.

WHALE WATCHING TRIP - FEB. 4

- Join the SMP for a whale watching trip. The sign up deadline is Jan. 27. Bus will leave the Camp Foster Field House at 6:50 a.m. and MCAS Futenma Semper Fit Gym at 7:10 a.m.

SOUTHERN HILLS ICE SKATING TRIP - FEB. 20

- Sign-up deadline is Feb. 15. The bus will leave Camp Foster Field House at 11 a.m. and MCAS Futenma Semper Fit Gym at 11:20 a.m.

Mention of any company in this notice does not constitute endorsement by the Marine Corps.

Japanese phrase of the week:

“Yukkuri haashite kudasai.”

(pronounced: you-ku-ri ha-sh-te ku-dah-sigh)

It means, “Can you please say it slower.”

“Moichito itte kudasai.”

(pronounced: moi-chi-to eat-te ku-dah-sigh)

It means, “Can you please say it again.”



CHAPLAINS' CORNER

In this recent season of peace and now into this new year, I continue to pray for peace. I hope you will join me.

New year focused on peace, giving

Lt. Cmdr. Jeffrey A. Terry

COMMAND CHAPLAIN CLR-35/MAINTENANCE BN.

This past Christmas, our family again experienced a departure from some familiar traditions that we knew stateside. On Christmas Eve, we attended a chapel service (familiar) and then ate a Thanksgiving-style dinner with 15 sailors and Marines (new). The week prior, many of us from Combat Logistics Regiment 35 held a Christmas party for nearly 60 residents of a local orphanage. Both events caused us to be grateful for what we have received and more focused upon what we could give. That was a good way to close out one year and enter into the next.

Just prior to Thanksgiving 2010, the office of the Chief of Chaplains put out these words to Religious Ministry Teams worldwide:

“In this holiday season, we reflect upon all that God has so graciously bestowed upon us. While our respective celebrations and traditions may differ, we all share common bonds of charity, compassion and goodwill toward

humankind. We all relish the warm and comforting embrace of our families as well as the fellowship and collegiality of our colleagues. But let us reserve this season's most fervent prayers for our brave men and women who are far away from home, standing forward deployed or in harm's way to preserve our cherished freedoms. May God's protection and peace be upon them and their families.”

I am grateful for the knowledge that others are praying for us – those “forward deployed” here in Okinawa. I have joined with others to pray for those deployed into harm's way, as well as to pray for the Marines, sailors and families on this island. In this recent season of peace and now into this new year, I continue to pray for peace. I hope you will join me.

“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds,” says Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians, chapter 10, verse 4.

May God bless you as we begin this new year.

FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR ALL MARINE CORPS BASE CHAPELS
CALL 645-2501 OR VISIT WWW.MARINES.MIL/UNIT/MCBJAPAN/PAGES/AROUNDMCBJ/CHAPEL.ASPX